

The Historie

No, yet time serues, wherein you may redeeme
Your banisht honors, and restore your selues;
Into the good thoughts of the world againe:
Reuenge the ieering and disdain'd contempt
Of this proud king, who studies day and night
To answere all the debt he owes to you,
Euen with the bloody payment of your deaths:
Therefore I say.

Wor. Peace coosen, say no more.
And now I will vnclasp a secret booke,
And to your quicke concealing discontent
Ile reade you matter deepe and dangerous,
As full of perill and aduenterous spirit,
As to o'rewalke a Current roring lowd,
On the vnstedfast footing of a speare.

Hot. If he fall in, good night, or sincke, or swim,
Send danger from the East vnto the West,
So honor crosse it, from the North to South,
And let them grapple: O the bloud more stirs
To rouse a lyon than to start a hare.

North. Imagination of some great exploit
Drives him beyond the bounds of patience,
By heauen me thinkes it were an easie leape,
To plucke bright honor from the palefac'd Moone,
Or diue into the bottome of the deepe,
Where fadome line could neuer touch the ground,
And plucke vp drowned honour by the lockes;
So he that doth redeeme her thence might weare
Without corruall all her dignities:
But out vpon this halfe fact fellowship.

Wor. He apprehends a world of figures here,
But not the forme of what he should attend,
Good coosen giue me audience for a while.

Hot. I crie you mercy.

Wor. Those same noble Scots that are your prisoners

Hot. Ile keepe them all;
By God he shall not haue a Scot of them,
No, if a Scot would saue his soule he shall not.

of Henry the fourth.

Ile keepe them by this hand.
Wor. You start away,
And lend no care vnto my purposes:
Those prisoners you shall keepe.

Hot. Nay, I will: that's flat:
He said he would not ransome Mortimer;
Forbad my tongue to speake of Mortimer,
But I will finde him when he lies asleepe,
And in his eare Ile hollow Mortimer:
Nay, ile haue a starling shalbe taught to speake
Nothing but Mortimer, and giue it him
To keepe his anger still in motion.

Wor. Heare you coosen, a word.

Hot. All studies here I soletunly desie,
Saue how to gall and pinch this Bullingbrooke,
And that same sword and buckler prince of Wales,
But that I thinke his father loues him not,
And would be glad he met with some mischance:
I would haue him poisoned with a pot of Ale.

Wor. Farewell kinsman, ile talke to you
When you are better tempered to attend.

Nor. Why what a waspe-tongue and impatient foole
Art thou? to breake into this womans moode,
Tying thine eare to no tongue but thine owne?

Hot. Why looke you, I am whipt and scour'd with rods,
Netled, and stung with pismires, when I heare
Of this vile politician Bullingbrooke;
In Richards time, what do you call the place?
A plague vpon it, it is in Glocestershire;
T'was where the mad-cap duke his vncke kept
His vncke Yorke, where I first bowed my knee
Vnto this king of smiles, this Bullingbrooke;
Zblood, when you and he came backe from Rauenspurg.

Nor. At Barkly castle.
Hot. You say true.
Why what a Candy deale of curtesie,
This fawning greyhound then did proffer me,
Looke when his infant fortune came to age,
And gentle Harry Percy, and kind coolen.

line 22 waspe-stung